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1952 LOG PRODUCTION FOR LUMBER AND VENEER

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More than two billion board feet of sawlogs were produced in the Northern Rocky Mountain region[1] during 1952 and delivered to sawmills and veneer plants for primary processing. Fifty percent of this volume came from North Idaho, 34 percent from western Montana[2], 15 percent from northeast Washington, and 1 percent from eastern Montana.

Of the total, 45 percent was Douglas-fir and western larch[3], 22 percent ponderosa pine, 13 percent western white pine. Grand fir, spruce, western redcedar, lodgepole pine, and hemlock made up the remainder.

Table 1. Summary of 1952 log receipts

Subregion	Species									
	Douglas-fir & Western larch	Western redcedar	Grand fir	Hemlock	Western white pine	Lodgepole pine	Ponderosa pine	Spruce	Total	Percent of total
	M board feet - International 1/4-inch rule									
N.E. Wash.	177044	931	2739	4	5899	1067	114799	3557	306040	15
N.Idaho	340594	27197	240753	886	251446	392	152962	24386	1038616	50
Montana:										
West.	398587	129	24	-	11146	2981	184719	104617	702203	34
East.	14074	-	-	-	-	7300	6869	1839	30082	1
Total	930299	28257	243516	890	268491	11740	459349	134399	2076941	100
Percent of total	45	1	12	*	13	1	22	6	100	100

* Less than 0.5 percent

1/ Includes Montana; Idaho, north of the Salmon River; Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, and Whitman Counties, Washington.
2/ The division between Eastern and Western Montana is the Continental Divide.
3/ Douglas-fir and western larch are combined because the industry does not distinguish between them.

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Clearwater County, Idaho, was the leading log producer in the region in 1952, contributing 19.2 percent of the total log harvest (table 2). Lincoln County, Montana, was second with 9.8 percent, and Flathead County, Montana, followed with 8.5 percent. Other important log producing counties were Idaho and Shoshone in Idaho; Missoula County, Montana; and Ferry and Stevens Counties in Washington.

Over half the cut in Northeast Washington and in Montana was Douglas-fir and western larch. Ponderosa pine, also popular in these areas, accounted for 37.5 percent of the cut in Northeast Washington and 26.2 percent in Montana. In North Idaho 32.8 percent of the cut was Douglas-fir and western larch and 14.7 percent ponderosa pine. Western white pine, which is indigenous primarily to North Idaho, made up 24.2 percent of the cut.

The cut of grand fir and spruce in this region has increased significantly since 1950, the last year a detailed census of production was made. Of the 1952 log harvest, grand fir and spruce made up 12 and 6 percent, respectively. One of the reasons grand fir has found wider acceptance in the market the last few years is because it weighs less per thousand than most species. Buyers have sought this weight advantage in shipping. The increase in spruce reflects the beginning of an extensive program to salvage beetle-killed spruce timber in this region.

ACCURACY OF THE 1952 SURVEY

The data presented in this note are based on reports from 113 mills which accounted for 76 percent of the total log receipts. Reports were obtained from all mills with an annual production of five million board feet and over. Log production for mills sawing less than five million board feet was calculated from samples. The sampling error of the total regional production is $\pm$ 1.5 percent.

Table 2. Log production by species and source

State and County	Douglas-fir & Western larch	Western red-cedar	Grand fir	Hemlock	Western white pine	Lodgepole pine	Ponderosa pine	Spruce	Total	Percent of total
	M board feet - International 1/4-inch rule									
Washington										
Ferry	70675	4	15	-	116	-	44077	1538	116425	5.6
Pend Oreille	10074	826	1734	4	4196	244	4368	1357	22803	1.1
Spokane	24312	3	434	-	1137	-	17031	204	43121	2.1
Stevens	67578	98	556	-	438	-	45064	408	114142	5.5
Lincoln & Whitman 1/	4405	-	-	-	12	823	4259	50	9549	0.4
Total	177044	931	2739	4	5899	1067	114799	3557	306040	14.7
% of Total	57.9	0.3	0.9	*	1.9	0.3	37.5	1.2	100.0	
North Idaho										
Benewah	35173	1381	21788	-	10561	79	6237	211	75430	3.6
Bonner	24521	3006	10417	539	30169	63	8038	3280	80033	3.9
Boundary	19009	1368	9989	-	15448	60	8844	12398	67116	3.2
Clearwater	115884	17774	95590	-	137692	48	26776	5297	399061	19.2
Idaho	52540	311	27938	-	4304	24	74011	1973	161101	7.8
Kootenai	34284	924	23537	300	16631	29	6464	96	82265	4.0
Latah	11650	379	4883	-	1874	29	6684	78	25577	1.2
Lewis	4499	3	3020	-	186	-	4770	469	12947	0.6
Nez Perce	3279	35	1242	-	288	7	4496	15	9362	0.5
Shoshone	39755	2016	42349	47	34293	53	6642	569	125724	6.0
Total	340594	27197	240753	886	251446	392	152962	24386	1038616	50.0
% of Total	32.8	2.6	23.2	.1	24.2	*	14.7	2.4	100.0	
West.Montana 2/										
Flathead	111129	107	21	-	3375	1218	33151	27044	176045	8.5
Granite	9566	-	-	-	120	173	2118	1506	13483	.6
Lake	10975	-	-	-	487	-	5391	95	16948	.8
Lincoln	116760	-	-	-	2859	886	24921	58884	204310	9.8
Mineral	18518	22	3	-	1022	65	27850	3256	50736	2.5
Missoula	76939	-	-	-	180	270	37281	7310	121980	5.9
Powell	15432	-	-	-	75	108	4045	1321	20981	1.0
Ravalli	17018	-	-	-	136	195	6466	2826	26641	1.3
Sanders	21360	-	-	-	2892	66	43358	2265	69941	3.4
Deer Lodge & Silver Bow 1/	890	-	-	-	-	-	138	110	1138	*
Subtotal	398587	129	24	-	11146	2981	184719	104617	702203	33.8
East.Montana 2/										
All Counties	14074	-	-	-	-	7300	6869	1839	30082	1.5
Total, all Montana	412661	129	24	-	11146	10281	191588	106456	732285	35.3
% of Total	56.4	*	*	-	1.5	1.4	26.2	14.5	100.0	
Grand Total	930299	28257	243516	890	268491	11740	459349	134399	2076941	100.0
% of Total	44.8	1.4	11.7	*	12.9	0.6	22.1	6.5	100.0	

1/ Counties combined to avoid disclosing production of an individual operator.
2/ Deer Lodge and Silver Bow Counties included in Western Montana.
Lewis & Clark County included in Eastern Montana.